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LECTURE CXLV.

STALIN'S MAY DAY MESSAGE

I congratulate you on May Day. The peoples of our country are celebrating May Day in the stern days of the patriotic war.

They have entrusted their fate to the Red Army, and have not been mistaken in their trust. The Soviet Armies are defending their country with their breasts.

For nearly two years, they have been defending the honour and independence of the peoples of the Soviet Union. During the winter campaign of 1942, the Red Army inflicted serious setbacks on the German Army, wiped out large numbers of the enemy's men and great quantities of his war materials, encircled and liquidated two enemy armies before Stalingrad, took prisoner over 300,000 enemy officers and men, and liberated from the German yoke hundreds of Soviet towns and thousands of villages.

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GERMAN PLANS FOILED

The Germans counted on encircling the Soviet troops in the Kharkov area, and on staging a German "Stalingrad" for our troops. This attempt of the German High Command to take revenge for Stalingrad fell through.

Simultaneously, the victorious troops of our Allies defeated the Italo-German troops in Libya and Tripolitania, cleared these territories of the enemy, and continue to rout them in Tunisia; while the gallant Anglo-American Air Force is inflicting devastating blows on industrial centres in Germany and Italy, foreshadowing the formation of a Second Front in Europe against the Italo-German Fascists.

Thus the blow against the enemy in the East on the part of the Red Army—for the first time since the outbreak of the war—has merged with the blow from the West by the forces of our Allies, into one common blow. All this taken together has shaken the very foundations of Hitler's war-machine. It has changed the course of the World War, creating the necessary conditions for victory over Hitlerite Germany. As a result, this enemy was forced to admit a serious deterioration in his position, and he began to scream about the critical stage of the war.

But no amount of shouting can hide the fact that Hitlerite Germany is actually passing through a crisis. This crisis is shown, in the first place, by the fact that the enemy has been compelled to give up his original idea of a *blitzkrieg*. It was further shown by the

fact that the Fascists now more often speak of peace. The Germans would like to make peace with Britain and the U. S. on condition that these countries abandon the Soviet Union. Or, on the other hand, they would like to make peace with the Soviet Union on condition that she abandons Britain and the U. S.

German Imperialists have the impudence to judge the Allies by their own standards, hoping that one of the Allies at least might be caught in the trap. This only means that they are passing through a difficult crisis. Is it not clear that only the complete defeat of the Hitlerite Army, and the unconditional surrender of Hitlerite Germany, can lead Europe to peace? The German-Italian Fascist camp is on the verge of a catastrophe.

This does not mean the catastrophe has already come for Hitlerite Germany. Hitlerite Germany has not yet been defeated.

IMPENDING DISASTER

It would be naive to think the catastrophe will come of itself. Two or three more powerful blows are needed from the West and from the East, such as have been dealt during the last 5 or 6 months, in order to make the catastrophe for Germany a fact. Therefore the peoples of the Soviet Union and the Red Army, together with our Allies and their Armies, have still a stern and hard struggle ahead of them. This struggle will demand from them great sacrifices and great courage and tenacity. They must mobilise all their resources to defeat the enemy, and thus pave the way to peace. The Soviet people are showing great solicitude for the Red Army. They have contributed over 7,000 million roubles to the Red Army Front. Workers, collective farmers and the intelligentsia are working ceaselessly, but the war against the German Fascist invaders demands that the Red Army should receive still more guns, aircraft, machine-guns, Tommyguns, rifles, ammunition, equipment, and food. In a war like the present one, one must not mark time. Those who lag behind are beaten.

The main thing at the moment is for the whole Red Army daily to perfect its military skill.

The time is near when the Red Army, together with the army of our Allies, will break the spine of the Fascist beast.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

1—5—43 to 7—5—43.

Russia.—On the first of May Russian forces broke the long spell by attacking a German bridgehead in the 'Kuban pocket'. Inthe NOVOROSSISK area an enemy attack persisted in for 6 days was beaten off. Fighting has flared up again west of ROSTOV, south of BALAKLEYA and south of OREL. With both sides preparing in secret for a summer campaign it is difficult to forecast future developments. It is safe to assume that there will be offensives on both sides. The German offensive may be directed towards MOSCOW from BRYANSK, or towards ROSTOV from TAGANROG and TAMAN.

Tunisia.—The bad weather which has come over the Tunisian battlefront has restricted operations and given both sides a spell of comparative rest. Although major fighting has died down, the Allies are still picking away at the Axis mountain bulwarks. Slowly the enemy is being ejected from JEBEL to JEBEL, and the Allies, British American and French are advancing, edging their way across intervening valleys and capturing small bits, here there and everywhere, along the line to TUNIS and BIZERTA. Thus the Allied Forces have captured LONG STOP HILL JEBEL SHUMARA), JEBEL ESTINA, JEBEL GEMIR, JEBEL GERALFA, GRAND DORSAB, SIDI AHMAS, JEBEL DERHAFIA, SIDI ABDALLAH.

The latest news is the fall of MATEUR. MATEUR connects TUNIS and BIZERTA by road and rail. By its capture the Axis North Front has been disorganised, TUNIS has been exposed and BIZERTA has been isolated, but for a passage across the Bizerta Lake.

The Pacific.—There are signs that the 'Battle of Shipping' in the S. W. Pacific is increasing in range and intensity. Besides the recent aerial attacks on Allied shipping the Japanese have now started submarine activities in this area.

American submarines patrolling the Pacific have sunk more than 125,000 tons of Japanese shipping. From aerial attacks in the past fortnight the Japanese have lost 8 times as much as the Allies. Since April 14, 20 separate missions of Allied aircraft have sunk or damaged over 90,000 tons of enemy shipping.

On May 2, 51 Japanese planes of which 13 were destroyed, heavily raided DARWIN. The damage was negligible.

Allied Air Raids in the Pacific for the week were as follows :—

April 23.—TARAWA (GILBERT ISLANDS).

April 24.—HOLTZ, Bay and CHICAGOF Harbour.

April 27.—UBILI, GASMATA, ARAWE, FINSCHHAFEN, MUBO, KISKA.

April 28.—WATDOK (KAI Island), REBI (AROE Islands), BERU (TIMOR), WILLAMUZ (N. BRITAIN), GASMATA, Cape GLOUCESTER (2 cargo ships of 4,000 tons were sunk in the Arafura Sea).

May 1.—KAIRENG, GASMATA, KISKA (13 attacks), HOLTZ Bay and CHICAGOF Harbour.

May 2.—TIMIKA (Dutch NEW GUINEA), NABIRE, MANSKWARI, LANGGOER, BIMA, Cape GLOUCESTER, MUBO, MUNDA.

China.—The Japanese raided KUNMING, capital of YUNNAN, with 240 planes, 10 of the aircraft were shot down. On another day 45 Japanese aircraft attacked the U. S. 14th Air Force base in YUNNAN, of which 6 were destroyed and 8 were probably damaged. Bitter fighting has broken out in the SHANSI-HONAN border, especially on the slopes of the Taihanshan mountains, described as the key to the control of the plains of N. CHINA. The present TAIHANSHAN battle is the 8th Japanese attempt to dislodge the Chinese forces there. The Chinese are reported to have liquidated half the Japanese forces stationed on the Western slopes.

Burma.—The Japanese, in their efforts to press northwards towards MAUGDAW and BUTHIDAUNG have repeatedly sent out patrols and repeated their familiar infiltration tactics. Murderous little battles are taking place, in which the enemy has sustained heavy losses.

The following Allied Air-Raids have been reported :—

April 22.—TAVOY (air-field).

April 25.—TAVOY, MAYMYO, YWATAUNG.

April 26.—2 villages on the ARAKAN coast, river transport on the Irrawadi; buildings near THAYETMYO, SHWEBO, RANGOON, HEHO, MONYAWA, KANGAUNG.

April 27.—THAZI, BASSEIN, AKYAB, NAGYICHAUNG.

April 28.—KANBALU, KATHA, NSOPZUP, NANYASEIK, TEHONA, MANYEWET.

April 29.—WUNTHOW, AKYAB, RANGOON.

April 30.—MAYU, MYINGAU.

May 1.—MYITTHA valley, MYEBON harbour, TAUNGUP.

May 2.—AKYAB.

ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

25—4—43 (Sunday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—

Railway and water transport in BELGIUM and FRANCE.
The lock gates near CALAIS (France) (1 enemy plane and 2 Allied planes missing).

NIGHT:—

Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy transport and positions around TUNIS.
An air-field in TUNISIA.
The docks and shipping at BIZERTA.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN front.

FAR EAST.

The air-fields at WEWAK (N. Guinea), and MADANG (N. Guinea).
Jap positions at SAIDOR, FINSCHHAFEN and MUBO (all in N. Guinea).
TIMIKA (Dutch N. Guinea).
Jap occupied village of FEROENI (Trangan Island).
The town of **TOEAL** (Kai Islands).
KOLOMBANGARA (Islands).
KISKA (Aleutians).
Enemy troops near PINBON (Burma).
Marshalling yards at RANGOON (Burma).
Rail road installations at MAYMYO and YWATAUNG (Burma).

26—4—43. (Monday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—

Railway centres in N.W. GERMANY, RHINE LAND and FRANCE.

NIGHT:—

The docks and railway siding and extensive Iron, steel and engineering works at DUISBERG (Germany).

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

An air-field at BARI (Italy).
CAGLIARI (Sardinia).
AUGUSTA (Sicily).
Enemy transport and position in TUNISIA.
Enemy air-fields in TUNISIA.

RUSSIA

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap convoy north-west of WEWAK (N. Guinea).
Attu Island.
Jap position at KISKA (Aleutians).
UBILI, GASMATA and ARAWE (all in N. Britain).
FINSCHHAFEN (N. Britain).
Jap positions near MUBO (N. Guinea).
The THILAWA oil refinery south of RANGOON.
Jap airfield at HEHO (Burma).
The central railroad station at RANGOON.
2 Jap occupied villages on the ARAKAN coast.
Factory buildings and river transports on the IRRAWADDY (Burma).
The air-fild at SH WEBO (Burma).

27—4—43 (Tuesday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—

Enemy shipping off JERSEY.
Air combat over the CHANNEL (1 enemy plane shot down).

NIGHT:—

Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Troop concentrations, gun positions, tanks and transport in the battle areas in TUNISIA.
Airfields near BIZERTA.
Enemy shipping in the SICILIAN CHANNEL.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

An enemy base in Dutch New Guinea.
WATDEK (Kai Islands).
Enemy ships in the ARAFURA Sea.
REBI village (Aroe Islands).
An enemy base near Bern (Timor).
Fuel dumps at GASMATA (N. Britain).
An air field at CAPE GLOUCESTER (N. Britain).
Railroad installations at THAZI (Burma).
Factories and transports near BASSEIN (Burma).
Supply dumps at AKYAB (Burma).
Enemy village of NAGYICHAUNG (Burma).

28—4—43 (Wednesday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—

Enemy shipping off the NORWEGIAN coast.
The harbour at MESSINA (Italy).
The docks at NAPLES (Italy).

NIGHT:—

WILHELMSHAVEN (Germany).
Laying mines in the BALTIC Sea and enemy coastal waters.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy position and transport vehicles in TUNISIA.
The axis airfield at EL AOUINA (Tunisia).
Enemy shipping in the Gulf of TUNIS.
E-boat base at SYRACUSE (Sicily).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along th[e] RUSSIAN front.

FAR EAST.

Jap air base at TARAWA (Gilbert Islands).
Jap installations at KAHILI (Shortlands area) KISKA (Aleutions), VILA (Solomons).
Engine sheds at KANBALU (Burma).
Docks and shipping at KATHA (Burma).

29—4—43. (Thursday).

EUROPE.

DAY:—

Offensive sweeps over Northern FRANCE, HOLLAND, and BELGIUM.
Enemy shipping in the North Sea (2 Allied planes missing).

NIGHT:—(1 Allied plane missing).

An enemy convoy off the Dutch Coast (2 enemy ships set on fire).

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy shipping in the Gulf of TUNIS (2 vessels sunk).
Axis tanks and motor transport in the battle areas.
Enemy air fields in TUNISIA.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along t[he] Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap positions at KAHILI (Short lands area) a[nd] GATERE (Kolombangara Islands).

MUNDA (Solomons).
DOBO (ARU Islands).
Air base at WEWAK (New Guinea).
Jap positions and other objectives in the WUNTHO area and along the IRRAWADY (Burma).
Enemy occupied villages in AKYAB Island.

30—4—43 (Friday).

EUROPE.

DAY :—
A minelayer off the Coast of BRITTANY (France).

NIGHT :—
Industrial and military objectives at ESSEN (Germany).

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

A destroyer and an E-boat in the Gulf of TUNIS (destroyer sunk).
Enemy tanks and motor transport in the Tunisian battle areas.
Enemy air fields in TUNISIA.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Reconnaissance over north-west sector of South-west PACIFIC.
A Jap cargo ship off KAVIENG (New Island).
The air field at GASMATA (N. Britain).
Jap position in the MYITHA valley (Burma).
Supply sampans, steamers and warehouses along the IRRAWADY and CHINDWIN Rivers from PROME to MONYWA (Burma).
A steamer in the MYEBON harbour (Burma).
Objectives at TAUNGUP (Burma).
Marshalling yards at MOULMEIN (Burma).
AKYAB town (Burma).
Railroad bridge at MYITNGE (Burma).

1—5—43 (Saturday).

EUROPE.

DAY :—
The air field at TROCQUEVILLE (France).
Railway objectives in Northern FRANCE and HOLLAND.
Port installations at ST. NAZAIRE.

NIGHT :—
Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

TUNISIA and the MEDITERRANEAN.

The port and power station at MESSINA (Sicily).
Enemy ground positions and jetties along the Tunisian coast.
A merchant vessel in the AEGEAN Sea.
Enemy airfields in TUNISIA.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

The air fields at TIMIKA and NABIRE (Dutch N. Guinea).
A cargo ship in the harbour at MANOKWARI.
The wharf area at LANGGOER (Kai Island).
The airfield at CAPE GLOUCESTER .(N. Britain).
Jap positions at REISS Point and MUBO area (N. Guinea).
The enemy air field at PAGODA Point (near Rangoon).
Storage buildings near MANDALAY.
An enemy supply dump at KWITU.
Enemy installations at SHADUZUP, KAMAING and LA LAWNGGA.
Goktaik viaduct between MANDALAY and LASHIO (Burma).
Engine sheds at MAYMYO (Burma).

ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

26—4—43 (Monday).

BRITAIN.

No information available.

TUNISIA.

Forward positions of the British 1st Army in TUNISIA.

RUSSIA.

LENINGRAD area.

FAR EAST.

A place on the GUADALCANAR Island (5 Jap planes shot down).

27—4—43 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.

No information available.

TUNISIA.

Air combats over the coasts of TUNISIA.

RUSSIA.

KRASNODAR.

28—4—43 (Wednesday).

BRITAIN.

No information available.

TUNISIA.

Air combats over the TUNISIAN Coasts.

RUSSIA.

KRASNODAR.

FAR EAST.

Air combats over the BAY of BENGAL (1 Jap plane shot down).

29—4—43 (Thursday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

TUNISIA.

Air combats over the SICILIAN channel.

RUSSIA.

Russian positions in the KUBAN area.

30—4—43 (Friday).

BRITAIN.

Air combats over the ENGLISH CHANNEL (1 enemy plane shot down).

TUNISIA.

Air combats along the TUNISIAN coast.

RUSSIA.

KUBAN area.

FAR EAST.

The air field at GUADALCANAR Island (Solomons).

1—5—43 (Saturday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

TUNISIA.

Air combats over the SICILIAN CHANNEL.

RUSSIA.

KUBAN area.

FAR EAST.

Air combats over BIMA (Soembava Island). (3 Jap aircraft shot down)

2—5—43 (Sunday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

TUNISIA.

An allied boat off ALGERIA.

SIDE LIGHTS.

THE RUSSO-POLISH TENSION. Following POLAND's appeal to the International Red Cross for an investigation of the alleged 'discovery', by the Germans, of the remains of some 10,000 Polish Officers in the forest of Katin, near SMOLENSK the Soviet Government has decided to break off relations with POLAND and the Polish Ambassador has left MOSÇOW. The cause of the Soviet resentment is POLAND's attitude to her Russian ally and the agitation said to have been carried on by the Polish Press, to the prejudice of the Soviet and, possibly, in collusion with the enemy. The Soviet Government suspect a secret contact between certain Polish elements and the Nazis, with intent to deal treacherous blows at RUSSIA and, eventually, to secure territorial concessions in WHITE RUSSIA, Soviet UKRAINE and LITHUANIA.

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'KATIN' PROPAGANDA. It is needless to say that all this has proved excellent grist to Goebbels' propaganda mill. 'The Katin Crime', he has been trumpeting, 'is a true foretaste of what would lie before EUROPE if the wish of the Anglo-Saxons were fulfilled and if the Soviet Union were to be the victors in the battle of the Continent led by GERMANY.' It may be remembered that after the recent reverses in RUSSIA and North AFRICA, GERMANY has changed her rôle from 'conqueror' to 'saviour' of a 'United EUROPE' from the 'perils' of Bolshevism.

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KATIN DISCREPANCIES. It is now more than a fortnight since the Germans announced their 'discovery', but already their accounts bristle with contradictions and discrepancies. At first the dead bodies were 'recognisable', now they are not: at first, the Nazis knew of the murder a year ago'; now they say they heard about it only 'recently.' The number of alleged victims has also varied from 1,200 to 15,000, as also the manner of the death.

It is unfortunate that the Polish Government should have so easily swallowed the bait. They should have known better, having been themselves victims in the past, of Nazi massacres and deportations. They could not have forgotten ROTTERDAM or LIDICE; nor the recent attempt to invent 'Polish atrocities against innocent Germans in POLAND', eked out with concocted evidence and faked photography.

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FISHY. Putting one thing with another, the Katin story, is, on the very face of it, fishy. It is strange that though the Germans were in occupation of SMOLENSK from the end of 1941 the incident, a sensational affair, reached their ears 'only a year ago', and that they, so apt in capitalising any incident prejudicial to the Allies, should have waited till now to give it publicity.

The Polish Government should have also known that any impartial investigation, by the I. R. C. or any other body, is impossible in the present circumstances. The Nazis being in possession of SMOLENSK can easily manufacture, select or suppress evidence. Further, if as is alleged, there has been a massacre, the authors are as likely to have been Germans as Russians—Germans—rather than Russians, in view of the known atrocities perpetrated that they have in POLAND and other countries. At any rate such 'tales of horror' are best reserved for a dispassionate inquiry after the war. The Polish action, in creating a rift at present, and in the midst of war is, to say the least, both unwise and hasty.

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THE POLISH NOTE. The Polish Government's reply issued on April 28 tries to make some amends, though it does not retrieve the situation. It affirms POLAND's desire for a friendly understanding with RUSSIA and reiterates POLAND's sense of responsibility for Allied solidarity and unity. Contact with Hitler is denied: the subject of the missing Polish officers and the idea of an investigation

by the I. R. C. are both dropped. In return the evacuation of all Polish women, children and ex-soldiers still in RUSSIA is demanded.

The tension has not eased. RUSSIA demands complete repudiation of POLAND's earlier attitude. BRITAIN and AMERICA are using their good offices to restore amity.

The breach is unfortunate, at a time when more than ever, the Allies should be united on the eve of victory. POLAND, in spite of all her sufferings, has shown a tendency to become sometimes unsteady in times of stress. Once before she played into German hands by agreeing to dismember CZECHOSLOVAKIA, and carve out an independent SLOVAKIA, and now behind the clamours of inquiry is the Polish Cabinet's wish to press territorial claims before the enemy has been beaten: they would have the skin before the bear has been killed.

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PAST AND PRESENT. It is interesting to compare what the Nazis said in the past and say now. In the pre-war years while the Germans were the Herrenvolk, the Serbians were 'regicides', the French 'Coxcombs', the Italians 'assassins' and the Japanese, 'apes and hyenas', now they are a happy family—comrades all. Formerly as Hitler wrote in *Mein Kampf*, the 'pacifist-humanitarian' ideal was possible only when the Nazis had conquered and subjugated the world to an extent that rendered them the sole lords of the earth. Now with increasing fear of an invasion Hitler says, 'My idea of reconstructing EUROPE does not call for the subjugation of those people not belonging to Germanic race.'

Last year, the talk was about 'hammering at the Bolshevist giant until he was smashed to pieces'; about 'conquering space' for Russian 'coal, iron, oil and wheat.' But now the Nazis have become less sordid; they are out on a humanitarian mission to save civilisation threatened by Bolshevism.

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HITLERIAN CONFERENCES. As Hitler's fears of invasion grow his conferences with his satellites multiply. In the previous weeks he summoned Boris and Horthy and the ministers of HUNGARY and RUMANIA. This week, it was the turn of Quisling himself from NORWAY, Tiso from SLOVAKIA and Laval from FRANCE.

On April 9, NORWAY, it may be remembered, celebrated her anniversary of the German invasion, in a manner that left no doubt as to where her sympathies lay. Hitler has already constructed the biggest air-field in EUROPE at TRONDJHEM and strengthened the Norwegian coast-line at OSLO FJORD, LARVIK and DROBUK but his fears of Sabotage are increasing from day to day, Quisling was called in person to assure him of quisling loyalty.

For a similar task came Tiso, the puppet head of Nazified SLOVAKIA, created in the stress of 1939, under the pretext of liberating the Slovaks from 'Czech oppression.' Of late this puppet has shown signs of revolt, unable to meet the unceasing demands for soldiers for the Russian front, and so Tiso came to be pacified.

Last, but not least, to be summoned and to receive 'instructions in the event of an invasion' was Laval, the French Quisling. The number of French workers conscripted daily for labour in Germany is now said to be 10,000; a further demand has been made for 500,000 workers in return for 50,000 French prisoners of war; the Gestapo is busy taking a census of all childless women between 18 and 25.

Laval is the most hated man in FRANCE to-day. A broadcast from Brazaville Radio, and from another source, (since denied by Vichy), reports a bomb attack on Laval when he returned from his conference with Hitler, or while staying in the Hotel Matignon in PARIS, or driving in his special armoured train.

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THE GERMAN LOOT. The German looting of EUROPE continues, surpassing previous records. According to a statement published by the U. S. Board of Information on April 27, the loot amounted to £ 9,000,000,000 at

the end of 1941, with plunder now running to billions yearly. Thousands of machines in factories have been dismounted to be refitted in GERMANY. Hundreds of thousands of cattle have been confiscated. Objects of art, furniture and tools have been taken away. 2,000,000 tons of shipping have been seized. All this is open robbery.

Indirectly a tax of two milliards of pounds is levied in the name of occupation costs, and as it exceeds the actual expenditure, the surplus is invested in buying up industries in the enslaved lands.

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THE BATTLE OF THE TUNISIAN TIP is no longer a battle for N. AFRICA, because N. AFRICA has been already won, nor for the Italian Empire, because it is already lost to ITALY, but is, as Mr. L. S. Amery told his audience at BIRMINGHAM the other day, a second front of Hitler's choosing, by his own reaction to the Allied offensive in N. AFRICA, and by the desperate defence he has chosen to offer to the inevitable advance of the Allied forces. It is a disaster that Hitler has invited on himself, and his losses have been so colossal that no second front opened in EUROPE could have been equally disastrous. It has certainly eased the conflict for Stalin by diverting considerable Axis forces and equipment from RUSSIA.

The disposition of the Allied armies in TUNISIA is now somewhat as follows: The burden of the assault from ENFIDAVILLE to MEDJEZ EL BAB now rests with the British 8th and 1st Armies. American troops formerly at GAFSA have been switched over to the Northern coastal front, while the Fighting French occupy the zone formerly held by the left wing of the British 1st Army. The ring round the Axis is complete.

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THE BATTLE FOR THE MOUNTAINS. But a speedy advance is no longer possible, because Allied superiority in tanks and guns no longer counts. It is now an infantry struggle on precipitous mountain slopes with knife and bayonet, hand-grenade and tommy-gun. Here the cream of hand-picked Goering grenadiers stand at bay, counter-attacking for every inch of ground. The positions they occupy are almost impregnable. North of ENFIDAVILLE there is a series of ridges which run from the main mass of mountains to the sea. All these ridges, some of them unscalable owing to over-hanging rocks, are occupied by the enemy. Further, these positions, strengthened as early as December, are protected by enemy artillery and machine-gun nests on the flank and in front. For these reasons swift advances are no longer possible.

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THE FIGHT FOR TAKROUNA. But steadily, if slowly, the Allies gain ground. For instance, take the capture of TAKROUNA, dominating the road from ENFIDAVILLE inland. It is described as a 'conspicuous and grotesque-looking hump,' as 'more than a hill but not quite a mountain.' Its sides are precipitous. The British surrounded the hill, isolated the Axis garrison and finally exterminated it, after close fighting. Meanwhile Axis troops concealed in deep trenches in the slopes sniped and machine-gunned. The British had to cut their way with machets through cactus hedges already mined by the enemy. It was a bloody battle in which heavy casualties were incurred on both sides.

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BIZERTA. The Allies are said to be in sight of BIZERTA town and lake. BIZERTA which stands at the head of the Gulf of Tunis, was originally fortified by the French and now it has been strengthened by the German engineers. It has a big arsenal, huge warehouses and extensive docks. From the sea to the end of her innermost basin BIZERTA extends over 8 miles. Here a deep channel cuts into the rocky coast and pours its waters into lakes. Between the lakes stands FERRYVILLE, another arsenal, with four large docks of its own. A suspension bridge between the lakes carries a railway. Two air-fields lie near the post, the larger one, at SIDI AHMED on the shore of the Lake of BUIRTA, large enough for the landing of the heaviest planes, and the other a sea-plane base at the harbour.

AIR TACTICS AND STRATEGY. Now that the Allied Air Force is not of much service in the hilly country, its main task, besides covering and supplying land troops, is to destroy the enemy's sea and air communications. The functions, as General Eisenhower has pointed out, are two-fold, tactical and strategic. The duty of the 'Tactical Formation' is to support the land forces with fighters, light bombers and reconnaissance craft. The 'Strategical Formation' carries out long-range assaults on enemy bases in TUNISIA, SARDINIA, SICILY and South ITALY. There are 12 air-fields in SICILY and 7 in SARDINIA, and they are all pounded almost daily. The Italian Fleet is another target. Bombed out of NAPLES it is now being bombed out of SPEZIA. But the most brilliant work of the Allied Air Force is, the 'massacre' of the Axis air transports across the sea. 112 enemy planes, for instance, were destroyed over the Sicilian Channel in 2 days two weeks ago. On another day 31 Messerschmitt monsters, each capable of carrying 120 men or 10 tons of cargo, were shot down. We are told these air-giants were 'potted like sitting birds', or like 'clay pigeons'. There is no doubt that the Allied Air Force is making history in this way, and it would be well worth continuing this kind of fight, considering the losses inflicted, were it not for the fact that the opening of a European Front is more urgent.

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THE ITALIAN FLEET. By all accounts Mussolini is not likely to risk his Fleet, or what remains of it, to rescue his forces in TUNISIA. Italian warships are reported to be moving towards TARANTO. To-day, more than ever, the Italian Fleet is ill-equipped to fight. ITALY is naturally afraid that any naval losses incurred in an attempt to save the armies locked-up in TUNISIA would endanger the defence of the Italian homeland.

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RUSSIA. 'Not many days separate us from big and stormy events', says the *Izvestia*; 'indications point to a renewal of the German offensive', says the Red Army. The storm, to which the patrol activities of the present form a prelude may break at any moment. The Germans are massing large forces. Stalin, whose May Day Speech we publish on the front page, is confident. He has said 'The time is near when the Red Army, together with the army of the Allies, will break the spine of the Fascist beast'. He has given good reason for the forecast. He has pointed how the blows in the east have merged with the Anglo-American blows in North AFRICA and over German territory, and how in combination they have shaken the very foundations of Hitler's fighting machine, and changed the course of the war itself.

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MARTINIQUE U. S. has repudiated all past agreements with MARTINIQUE, has immobilised the French warships in its harbour, and stopped supplies of food. Early in March, Admiral Robert, MARTINIQUE's High Commissioner, had promised to join in the fight against the Axis, but events have shown that he is an agent of Hitler. A U. S. Note says, 'The U. S. Government do not recognise Vichy, nor will it recognise or negotiate with any French representative in the Antilles who remains subservient to or maintains contact with 'the Vichy régime'.

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THE SOLDIER'S MAIL. We are indebted to the *Times of India* for the following extract:—

'As the Fourth Indian Division advances with the Eighth Army in Tunisia, the field Postal services and field Post offices, which help to keep the troops in touch with those at home, also move forward, but these get their share of excitement also.

'In the prevailing conditions there is no such thing as a 'Quarter Guard' here, but safety from theft is almost assured. The cash, stamps and seals are placed in a locked chest, which itself is kept in a three-foot dug-out, to secure it as far as possible from an occasional shell of a long-range gun or bursting bomb.

'At night the F. P. M. sleeps (or tries to sleep) in this dug-out with the 'treasure' by his side, covered by a little bivex tent, the whole structure and process resembling the Pharaoh with his treasure in the Pyramids—but of course, with this important difference, that, unlike the Pharaoh, the F. P. M. sleeps alive'.

THE CASE FOR THE BOMBERS.

MALLORY BROWNE—(From the Observer).

The case for bombing has been weakened lately by being pushed out of perspective. There are those, like Seversky and Ziff, who insist that the war can and should be won by bombing alone, and that consequently everything should be subordinated entirely to this single form of offensive action. There have been others who insisted on the all-importance of mass bombings of Germany and Italy, at a time when the simple fact was that Allied production of bombers was not sufficient to sustain even a moderately intensive attack.

The truth is that the case for bombing is irrefutable as long as it is assessed in its proper perspective. What then is the proper place of bombing in Allied strategy against the Axis at this stage of the war?

OTHER PRIORITIES.

It is, surely, at the very top of the list of offensive priorities, and second only to two overriding defensive demands. The first of these is protection of the Allies' vital life-lines, the defence of our shipping against the U-boat peril. The second is provision of an indispensable and ample minimum of air cover for the land and sea forces engaged in major combined operations now under way in the Mediterranean and the Pacific.

Strâtegy, in modern mechanised warfare on this world-wide scale, is primarily a matter of priorities. Hitherto, the defence of Britain itself, of our sea communications, of the Middle East and Suez, has necessarily headed the list of strategic priorities that predetermined the production, distribution, and use of our limited air-strength. That is no longer true to-day. Now, for the first time after more than three years of war, we possess both the initiative and the weapons. Obviously we have not yet all the planes and tanks and ships we would need to attack everywhere at once in force, but we can at least choose what form of offensive we will concentrate on next.

ITALY KNOWS.

The choice is—or ought to be—plain. It is bombing—intensive, sustained bombing of both Germany and Italy. The recent heavy air attacks on Turin, Genoa, and Milan have proved how devastatingly effective even a few mass raids can be. American daylight bombing is a valuable addition to our night attacks. Full results become known only gradually, but already it is clear that these hard-hitting raids have seriously shaken the morale of the Italian people.

The Fascist authorities are confronted with an evacuation problem that piles an added burden on straining supply, housing and transportation resources already overstrained. Furthermore, the direct material effects of the bombing have unquestionably been great, even if the most conservative assessment of damage be taken. On the Axis' own admission the port of Genoa is now closed. Air reconnaissance photographs show that such key plants in Italy's war production as the Fiat factory in Turin, where 50,000 people were employed in making airplane engines, tractors, and munitions; the Caproni bomber works, the Montecatini chemical factories, the Lancia transport works, have been badly damaged, where they have not been completely put out of action.

In Germany, our air-raids have been even more intensive and sustained. Within the last eight months the industrial centres and ports of Western Germany have been the targets for an air *blitz* far worse than that which the *Luftwaffe* carried out against England in the eight months from September to May, 1940-41.

Some idea, incomplete yet impressive, of the extent of damage done by these raids can be gained by the following facts and figures. In the City of London, an area of approximately 120 acres was devastated—that is, completely destroyed or damaged to such an extent that whatever was left will have to be pulled down and completely rebuilt. In Cologne there are 600 acres of devastation of this sort. The Germans themselves have admitted that forty per cent of the city has been destroyed.

ACRES OF RUIN.

And Cologne is only one of a dozen towns which have been heavily *blitzed*. In Dusseldorf there are some 380 acres of complete destruction. Here industrial damage was even greater than in Cologne, because the factories were located in the town itself. In Carlsruhe a huge central area of more than 300 acres was destroyed, in addition to other scattered damage. In Lubeck the total devastation is 270 acres. In Rostock a central core of 130 acres is burnt out, and other destruction totals at least as much again. In Mainz at least 135 acres have been devastated, and a similar story could be told of Emden, of Duisberg, of Bremen, of Aachen, and of Hamburg.

This is only a partial list. It gives only a very imperfect idea of the tremendous damage which has been dealt out to the German arms industry by the R. A. F. raids of the last eight months. In the first six months of this period, from March to August, it is estimated that more than 322,000 German dwellings were either completely demolished or rendered uninhabitable. Something in the neighbourhood of 645,000 persons are calculated to have been "unhoused" by these raids. These figures do not include damage done in many of the heaviest raids, which were made in the past three months. There are abundant signs that these *blitz* attacks on Germany's key industrial centres have begun to shake the morale of the working population in the Ruhr and the Rhineland. There are indications that saturation point is being approached in the efforts of the Nazi authorities to absorb the evacuees, and to re-clothe and re-house those who have lost their homes and possessions by bombing. Of course there are inevitable losses of young, brilliant, and gallant men, which everyone deplores, but the casualties may be considered light in relation to the damage done; far lighter than will be incurred when operations in Europe begin.

THE STRAIN ON GERMANY.

For one important point is often overlooked in assessing the effectiveness of these raids on Germany. It is often said that, just as the German raids on Britain failed to have any conclusive effect on our own war production, so British raids on the Reich cannot hope to disrupt war production there. This fails to take account of a very fundamental difference in the two cases. In 1940 and the first half of 1941 Britain was just beginning to expand its war industry. There was plenty of slack to be taken up. There was an abundance of labour for clearing and demolition purposes. There were plenty of factories on civilian work which could be switched over to war work in replacement of those plants that were knocked out. Above all, there were enough empty houses or rooms to take care of evacuees and homeless.

In Germany to-day the opposite is the case. Germany's industrial machine was already strained to the utmost when the *blitz* began. Labour was scarce. Communications were already over-burdened. Clothing and furniture were already almost non-existent, so that the question of reclothing bombed populations has been a grave problem.

ONLY TEN PER CENT.

It is this difference that makes the case for the bombing of Germany and Italy such a strong one. Admittedly it must be kept in perspective. The question is not whether bombing alone can win the war, but whether we are attaching its full weight to the important weapon of air attack in this new offensive phase of the war. No one suggests that our offensive against the Axis be restricted to bombing. It is not even proposed that all our air resources be directed to bombing alone. But Air-Marshal Sir Arthur Harris has been able to say without contradiction recently that what he has achieved has been done in spite of the fact that he is only able to use 10 per cent of Britain's first-line aircraft strength for his raids on Germany. Surely this is allotting a disproportionately small share of our air resources to what should be a most effective form of attack against Germany. Is it asking too much to propose that not 75 per cent, not even 50 per cent, but a minimum of 30 per cent of Britain's first-line aircraft be reserved exclusively for the use of our bombing offensive against Germany and Italy?

TRANS-AFRICAN AIR ROUTE.

(*The Middle East Review*).

The air route to Africa, which is playing an important part in getting supplies not only to the Middle East but also to India, Russia and China was pioneered seven years ago through British initiative. It runs from Nigeria through French equatorial Africa to Khartoum, and was originally developed solely for peace-time traffic.

The first service along this route, now the main airline to the East, was opened in 1936, and in October of that year the first aeroplane from Khartoum reached the Atlantic seaboard of Nigeria, 3,500 miles away. The early pioneering work was done under great difficulties. The first pilots of the British-run Imperial Airways had no direction-finding radio or weather service, while enormous ant-hills and "harmatamna" dust storms rose suddenly on the aerodromes, giving visibility of as low as thirty yards. Runways to begin with, were only 700 yards in length. West African bees were also among the early difficulties which had to be faced, as they were attracted in hundreds by the oil used on the aircraft, and lions had also to be kept from the control huts by small bush fences.

REGULAR SERVICE OPENED.

When the Mediterranean was closed after Italy's entry into the war, a regular service to West Africa was opened, and linked up with the Lagos to Cairo route. The R. A. F. West African Command threw up bases on the most poisonous strip of coast in the world, hammered runways out of sand and undergrowth, and, with U-boat packs patrolling the South Atlantic almost within sight, opened up the Reinforcement Route that contributed to the Eighth Army's westward drive. The momentum at which the R. A. F. personnel discharged their work can be gauged from the fact that often aircraft were taking tests for air-worthiness within twelve hours of being unloaded, and an hour or two later, were on the runways ready for the next convoy to the battle zone.

THE HAZARDOUS ROUTE.

The route hugged the coast with a hazardous stage over Vichy territory, striking north through friendly Nigeria to Lake Chad, where the Fighting French were congregated. Between that point and the Sudan and the Nile route to Cairo lay a vast stretch of French equatorial desert and forest, broken only by a thin chain of landing grounds formerly used by French Colonial airlines.

These up-country landing grounds consist only of strips of runway and a cluster of native huts, in a tiny clearing in the forest and scrub. They are laid one way only—with the prevailing wind. Some of the landing grounds have been hacked out of the wilderness. Others are a little less primitive. The operations room and airfield control, at an important junction that has passed thousands of aircraft, are made from Hurricane packing cases.

A village of the West African Coast is now one of the United Nations' major supply bases for the Middle East, Syria, Iran, Russia and India. A steady flow of operational aircraft is maintained over it. It is also the base for ceaseless warfare against the long range U-boats in the South Atlantic.

SIR ARCHIBALD SINCLAIR.

(*From the Observer.*)

Twenty years ago a young Liberal back-bencher from the Highlands rose for his maiden speech in the House of Commons. His name was Sinclair; at the General Election of 1922 he had handsomely defeated the sitting Member for Caithness. His leaders spoke of him as a coming man; his war record had been long and gallant; but to the public at large, except in his own county of Caithness where he had been Lord-Lieutenant and had his seat at Thurso as fourth baronet of the Sinclair line; he was still quite unknown.

At the time his maiden speech drew little attention. It was a sound performance; but Archibald Henry Macdonald Sinclair had yet to serve a nine years' Parliamentary apprenticeship before coming to the Front Bench in 1931 as Secretary of State for Scotland. The theme of the speech interests us to-day more than the detail: Sinclair spoke on the growing importance of air power in war; in so doing he pointed the way to his own future.

He has always had a touch of the eagle. It appears in the contour of his lean, handsome face. It appears in his ancestry—he is the son of a Scots father and an American mother. It appears in his long devotion to the air. And we can see it also in the chart of his career; throughout his life he has flown "an eagle flight, bold and forth on," never deviating from his chosen course.

If he had not been a Liberal, a member of the party whose fortunes declined so sorely fifteen years ago, he might have held high office long before he did. He was known as a skilled and improving speaker, a politician of constructive ideas and potential administrative power, and a man whose charm of manner could freshen the often arid stretches of Parliamentary debate. But he was a Liberal, convinced and loyal, and his chance of promotion did not come until the economic crisis of 1931 temporarily fused the conflicting parties and Archibald Sinclair became Secretary of State for Scotland. His brief term in that respectable Department is still remembered with awe.

Sinclair is the kind of minister who will grow in relation to the size of the job he is doing. This, according to one writer, is "the essence of Celtic genius," the phrase is much rubbed and wantonly misused, but it is true that Sir Archibald's Highland background has had great influence on his life.

Now the eagle flight of twenty-years has taken him to the inner confidences of the Cabinet, to his valiant term at the Air Ministry—and who can tell to what further advancement?

That the advancement will come is certain. Sinclair was born for the heights, the eagle-crags. He is only just fifty-two; much has yet to be written in the biography of this dark and fiery chieftain.

THE ARAKAN OPERATIONS.

Spirit of Comradeship between Indian and British Troops.

After being with our troops in the Arakan throughout the present operations, I have seen for myself that the spirit of comradeship between British and Indian troops grow better and better as the days go by, writes an Indian Army Observer. Now that they have been in battle together their respect and liking for each other has reached a new high level.

The Britisher describes as "some of the very best" men like the Subedar, who after dragging the body of a Japansse officer four miles back to headquarters, was himself captured, shot his way free and climbed a tree where he remained for hours to gather valuable information.

The Jawan, in his turn, looks upon the Tommy as "Bahut Achcha"—a steady, courageous soldier who will not let him down, and with whom he can laugh and joke in a way that makes up for any difficulties of language. And so far as these are concerned it is often surprising how much each has picked up of the other's tongue. It may not be grammatical, but it gets by!

I have also found that men who have lived for years in towns, gone to the pictures once or twice a week, read a newspaper everyday, got very much into the grip of habit, can in a few weeks or months adapt themselves so well to an utterly different existence that they seldom appear to be bored. This, of course, applies mostly to the British, but the Indian, too, in some cases has had to turn his life inside out—and has done it most successfully.

It is months since some of us have been to a cinema. Newspapers are scarce, and often days old. Nearly all the old familiar pastimes are barred. Yet we are still a very cheerful crowd. So far as news is concerned, the regular distribution of troops' magazines is a compensating factor.

MOST IMPORTANT THING.

Quite the most important thing in a soldier's private life, such as it is, is the arrival of mail. Just a day or so ago I saw it being delivered to men within shouting distance of the Jap. For a few moments they forgot Japs, war and all else in a vision of home—and were all the better fighters a little while afterwards.

Next to mail, the most comforting things are tea and cigarettes. Somebody said that good hot tea did a lot to win the last war. It is certainly helping to win this one.

Our troops, I have discovered, look upon the Japs not as the "apes" they are sometimes called by non-combatants but as tough and clever opponents, whose defeat calls for the best that is in one. It is a safe and realistic view. To underrate a dangerous enemy is to court disaster.

After the Japanese in the Mayu Peninsula had endured for hours the biggest bombardment seen or heard on this front, and still had fight in them at the end of it, I heard one soldier say to another : "Well, it needs guts to take it like that ! Still, if they won't run now, we'll make 'em run in the end."

That the Jap is a vocal fighter as well as a good one, is yet another of my discoveries. Orders are shouted at the top of the voice and constant loud chattering can be heard—but he takes good care to be behind cover or otherwise invisible at the time.

He is also a very cunning enemy, by day and by night. What about this as a night-time ruse ? If he can find out who is opposing him in the tangle of the jungle he will cry out something like : "Don't shoot. I'm Rifles" (or 'Fusiliers,' or whatever it may be). Anyone who answers draws in his direction a furious burst of fire.

Or, again, the Jap may shout orders in a variety of languages—English, Urdu, Bengali and so on. These are often to the effect that "number......section will attack." After thus attempting to put his opponent on edge, he usually contents himself with opening fire—without advancing a foot.

On the whole, except when bombers and fighters are roaring overhead, this is the least spectacular of wars. You may spend hours within a few yards of your foe, manoeuvring and circling, without even seeing him. The jungles on these hills hide many things, including death. The singing bullet, the barking gun, the coughing mortar give a harsh pattern of sound, but the eye is mostly baffled by nature—or by troops who have learned the lesson of concealment wisely and well.

THE MYTH OF JAPANESE SUPERMEN.

Shintoism, Japan's politico-religious creed, is "Emperor-centred". That is, an attempt is made to fuse the personalities of the people with that of an Emperor, who is dogmatically asserted to be a divine incarnation. One result of this is the myth of Japanese might, that is carefully built up by propagandists and uncritically accepted by others. Stories are fabricated about the alleged wonderful qualities of the Japanese soldier. Stress is laid on his cleverness as a sniper, his ability to move silently through the jungle, strike his enemy in the flanks without warning, his prediliction for night attacks, his fanaticism and so on *ad infinitum*.

THE JAP SOLDIER.

There is no point in swinging to the other extreme and denying all virtue to the Jap soldier. There is no doubt he is a good fighting man, that he will fight to the death rather than surrender, that he executes his offensive tactics with dash and spirit. But to say that much is not to say everything. These very qualities of his, spectacular as they may sound, also help the Japanese to play into the hands of our men, and aid him in destroying himself. The U. S. Army units, the Marine Corps, the Australian forces have amply demonstrated, against the best jungle troops Japan can produce in Guadalcanar, Tulagi and New Guinea areas, that they can out-think, out-shoot, and out-fight the Japanese. And nearer home, British and Indian soldiers have shown that they are no whit inferior to the Japanese in courage, or in turning his own tactics on him as in the Arakan operations.

Let us analyse the position more closely. The Jap sniper has received a great deal of publicity. It is true he is clever at concealment and is expert in camouflage aids. But what is often overlooked is that he is more often than not a poor shot, and is a casualty-producing agent only at point-blank range. The Japanese has been readily combated by countersniping, and by the determined action of two to four men who search him out and destroy him. For example, recently even in air operations in the Arakan it has been seen that no longer does a single Jap fighter attempt its raiding operations, as the Japs were wont to do when the Allied fighting strength was not what it is at present, but the Japs set out in "wolf-packs" Nazi-wise. And in certain types of terrain, where the sniper may be working on the ground close to the Allied positions, the use of a hand grenade has often proved effective.

JUNGLE TACTICS.

Another illusion that needs to be dispelled is that the Japanese soldier moves about in the jungle silently and stealthily like a cat. He has often been trapped by our soldiers as a result of his own disclosure of his whereabouts by indiscreet noises, and the absence of quite elementary forms of local security. On the other hand, it has been the skill displayed by Allied soldiers that has helped them to bag many an unsuspecting Jap.

Our soldiers have noticed time and again that the Japanese invariably make avenues of approach to Allied positions, dig fox-holes, and have their paths lined with vines to facilitate night movement. Patrols by our men disclose these interesting facts, even as a judicious use of ambushes nullifies them.

THE ALLIED ANSWER.

There is nothing that the Japanese have yet employed which the Allies have not been able to meet and overcome. Infiltration tactics have been detected by cossack posts, noise devices, and booby-traps combated by tactical wire, bands of machine-gun fire and mortar-fire. Avenues of approach are covered by artillery-fire.

Attacks in force in darkness have been characterized by the Japanese using well defined ridge lines leading into Allied positions. Usually the attack is presaged by small arms and mortar fire and much shouting. This in fact is the machine-gunner's dream. Tactical fire suitably placed, final protective lines of automatic fire, and determination to hold fast to one's ground have reduced many an enemy onslaught to shambles. It is true the Japanese is most dangerous, and, to use a favourite journalese, "fanatical" on occasions like these. But cool judgment and superior fire power are more than a match for him, and there are indications that he has begun to realize so himself from his engagements in the S. W. Pacific.

As regards the other myth, that the Jap soldier can live on nothing for a long time, and can endure disease and inclement weather with miraculous powers, it has been shown by the enemy himself to be pure bunkum. Recent broadcasts from Batavia lament "the difficulties in malaria infested areas for our troops". Experience has shown that the Japanese are as little immune to tropical ills as the Allied soldiers. On the other hand, our men have faced the difficulties inherent in a strange and unfavourable terrain in a manner worthy of sincere admiration.

AN EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT.

In case first hand evidence is required to attest the heroism of our men, here are extracts from an article written by E. V. Lucas in the "*Star Weekly*" Toronto, of March 13, 1943. Mr. Lucas is the correspondent accredited to the U. S. Pacific Command and was in New Guinea during the earlier part of the campaign. He writes :—

"These men had flung themselves time and again against Jap defences at Gona. There they had left a pattern of their bravery in front of enemy positions. For seven days men crawled through jungle, sick men, through jungle that was tough enough for men who were well and whole. For seven days they cut their way through jungle and fought off Jap patrols.........at last this lost company arrived back at Port Moresby. After a few weeks of rest and recuperation they were back again in the front line of battle.

"There was no let up in this campaign. Men lived and fought under conditions that have no equal on any other battlefront. It was a nightmare. 'Green horror'.

"For three months they lived on little else than bully beef and biscuits, with water or sometimes refreshing cups of tea. Less determined men would have been stumped by the rigours of the jungle alone. But these Australian battalions fought in several major actions against the craftiest jungle fighter and won them.

"One batch decided to get away by digging themselves out. For nine days they burrowed like moles. For five of those days they were without any food. On the ninth day they had sapped 500 yards and were clear of the encircling enemy ring."

"That struck me", says Mr. Lucas, "as an epitome of that courage and will to victory which had carried these Australian battalions through one of the strongest and toughest campaigns in history".

WANING STRENGTH OF JAPAN.

PEOPLE BLIND TO THE REALITIES.

New York, Apr. 24.

"I have seen Japanese confidence reduced to Japanese fear," Senor Ramon LaValle, Argentine journalist, who was until recently Consular Attaché in Tokyo, declared in a nationwide broadcast.

The Japanese Government have warned the people to prepare for a 100-year war. Therefore, they are resigned to enduring great hardships. Before the war, the Japanese people were usually polite and honest among themselves, but all that is changed now. The Government are so worried that they conduct official kindness campaigns.

There is a limited Japanese underground which includes many prominent people.

The Germans were respected in Japan in the beginning of the war, but now that Germany's position is weakening, the Japs show their true feelings. They no longer respect the German technicians in Tokyo, who once lorded it over the Japs in their own country.

U. S. VICTORIES

American victories are never reported in Japan. I know because I speak Japanese. As the Government control all information sources, the Japanese people are entirely blind to the real situation. Naturally, the right Jap officials know what is happening—the American offensive in the Solomons surprised them very much. The people still do not know that they were defeated. I consider the taking of Guadalcanar, a master stroke against Japan. I doubt if the Americans fully realise how decisive it was. It completely upset the Japanese confidence, and changed their plans to attack Australia.

The Japanese announced the first American landing in the Solomons, saying that only a handful of American Marines were holding out in one of the smallest of the Solomons Islands. Reporting the second battle, they said that the Americans would soon be wiped out.

They were preparing for, and actually went so far as to announce to the Japanese people that they should be waiting to hear of, a great victory at any moment. Their intention was to retake the Solomons, attack Australia, and thus celebrate the first anniversary of the war.

A SENSATION.

When the announcement came, explaining that one Japanese battleship had been sunk and another damaged, it created a sensation throughout Japan. One official Japanese Navy Press Bureau went so far as to say, 'Before Pearl Harbour we over-estimated the strength of the U. S. Navy, but since Midway we have under-estimated it.'

Shipping is Japan's greatest potential weakness . . . Shipping losses are already worrying Jap officials.

From a Japanese shipping source I learned that Japan had already lost about 1½ million tons of ships in this war.

Another shipping official said to me, 'The position of Japanese shipping is very difficult. Shipping is the only means by which Japan can consolidate her gains, and unless the situation is solved we consider the war lost."

JAPAN'S DEEPENING FEARS.

(Far East News Letter).

Though the Foreign Office spokesman, Hori, told press correspondents in Tokio on April 12th that Japan's battle-lines in East Asia are unshakable, Tojo's grave speech to the Prefectural Governors on the same date, and the flurry of conferences in Tokio and elsewhere, betray the deepening anxiety over future war developments. Tojo made a peculiarly significant admission in regard to the attitude of the Emperor when, in his speech to the Governors, he said "We feel overwhelmingly obliged at the Emperor's visit to worship at the Ise Shrine on December 12th last; *since then* he has been taking this sacred war to heart."

Calling for an increase in the war effort, materially and spiritually, he told the Governors that actual performance of plans was the most important thing in the "unprecedented national emergency." Pleading for an uplifting of morale and for unity between government and people, he said that "as the war situation develops we must expect to note with care many factors that would influence our plans......The people must overcome these factors with warm, mutual affection. People should not express their anxiety and dissatisfaction."

The conference of Governors, following Tojo's demands on Nanking and Hsinking, as arsenal and granary respectively for Japan's war, is but one of many, dealing with the many problems the aggressors now confront. Conferences on the building of wooden ships, on the improvement of transport, and on the intensification of plunder in the occupied areas, have even extended to religion and art. Japanese Catholics and artists alike have been dragged into the "total war", as well as research workers in various fields.

In spite of all the boasting of their propagandists, it is clear that Tojo and his supporters are driven by a desperation in which the element of fear is growing. Japan's so-called new policy dates from the double shock of Stalingrad and Alamein, and the complete destruction of the grandiose strategic plan whereby Japan and Germany were to establish effective contact in the Indian Ocean. That plan was one of the essential conditions which induced the Japanese adventurers to take the plunge. It had a great deal more advertisement in the Far East than it had in Europe, and was openly discussed for months before the attack on Russia.

The dream has faded completely out of the picture in the past six months, and in its place has come the nightmare of a combined onslaught by the United Nations on Japan when Hitler has been smashed. The situation has compelled the Japanese to distribute "face" as widely as possible to the enslaved peoples, to be as free with promises of independence as they were reticent before, and to seek to drum up some measure of active co-operation in place of the passive resistance hitherto encountered, in the hope that they will harness themselves to Japan's battlewagon and produce more and more of their resources for the war machine.

The longer the process of plunder and exploitation by the Japanese continues the deeper will become the resolve of their victims to throw off the yoke. Five years of Japanese occupation in China, for example, have produced a hard-bitten, awakened peasantry upon whom the conquerors have failed to make any impression save that reflected in the effective resistance of the guerillas.

The most important barometer is, of course, the food situation. It is almost as important in Japan as in the occupied areas. It was the outbreak of food riots, no less than the totally unexpected turn in the military situation in Europe in the early autumn of 1918, that brought about the downfall of Marshal Terauchi and the installation of Japan's first commoner Premier. Can and will Manchuria become the effective granary of North China and Japan? That is a question fully as vital as any that derives from purely military speculation.

POLISH REFUGEE CHILDREN IN INDIA.

"Come to me, O ye children!
For I hear you at your play,
And the questions that perplexed me
Have vanished quite away.

" Ah! what would the world be to us,
If the children were no more
We should dread the desert behind us
Worse than the dark before........"

Perhaps it is this sentiment more than any other that has prompted India to give a cordial welcome to hundreds of Polish children who have fled from the horrors and bestialities of Nazi rule. Here they are now—smiling, happy and apparently oblivious of the trials they had undergone a few months ago. Watching a troupe of them, dressed in national costume, performing folk-dances and singing the folk-songs of their native land, it is hard to believe that when they reached the quarantine camp in Iraq, they said: "Why go on? Why not stop here? There is BREAD here."

For over two years, bread has been their daily anxiety. One boy related how he found a piece of gold. Riches for a penniless wanderer? No! not even gold could buy a piece of bread, so he threw the gold away.

Journeying south towards their goal of safety, the children's sufferings were great, but most of them had their parents to guide and comfort them. Then typhus broke out. The parents died by hundreds, for typhus is far more deadly to adults than to the young. Here is the story of two of these families.

In one, both parents died, and a little son of seven years old was left as sole guardian of his younger sister. She was a baby of 18 months. How many youngsters of seven would have shouldered the burden as he did? He learnt that Polish lorries were collecting children to take them to India. Quickly he made up his mind. Strapping his little sister on his back, he set out, barefooted and over the snows, on the long march to where people said the lorries were waiting. And he got there, exhausted but triumphant.

"We want to go to India, please."

Now, he and his sister are in a Refugee Camp in Ootacamund, with three or four other children who were in dire straits when they reached this country. They are in the charge of a Lady Superintendent having great experience with children. "They are doing grandly" was her last report.

HELP FROM PRINCES AND PROVINCES.

Another family consisted of a mother and three children. She was expecting a fourth. While the mother was suffering from typhus, the baby, a girl, was born prematurely.

Though now two and a half years old, that child is no bigger than a baby of three to four months. She cannot walk, she cannot talk, only her head seems to have grown. But the whole staff of the camp have pledged themselves to try and save her.

India is famed for its charity, and the Poles have found good friends here. His Highness the Jam Saheb of Nawanagar has lent sites for two camps, and Her Highness the Maharani is a frequent visitor to the camp at Balachadi in the State. Mention must be made of the offer of H. E. H. the Nizam of Hyderabad and Berar to pay for the maintenance of 50 children, and of the offers of the Rulers of Bhopal, Cutch, Gwalior, Jodhpur and Porbandar, who are contributing over Rs. 10,000 each for the purpose. Of the Provinces, Madras has undertaken to pay for the maintenance of over 80 children, the Punjab for 55, and Orissa for 15.

India has agreed to give refuge to 6,000 Polish children, mostly orphans, and to 5,000 Polish women and children and men of over military age; and it is hoped that the first 500 children will be treated entirely as guests of India, the whole cost of their maintenance being met from charitable funds. It is a tremendous task to build and equip camps for so large a family, to arrange education and medical facilities, to rebuild broken health, to bring forgetfulness of the past. But those engaged in the task are enthusiastic. In all the present orgy of death and destruction, it is good to know that one is saving young life, preserving it and training it to take its part in a better world.

POLISH GOVERNMENT THANKS INDIA.

His Excellency Count Alfred Poninski, Polish Ambassador-Designate to Chungking, with Countess Poninski, who has been staying as a guest of Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Marchioness of Linlithgow on his journey through India to his new post, has formally conveyed to the Viceroy the thanks and gratitude of the Polish Government for the assistance extended to Polish refugees in India.

There are at present three big centres for Polish refugees in India, the temporary refugees' camp near Karachi, the Polish refugee children's camp at Jamnagar, and thirdly a number of refugees who are scattered over India but who are principally concentrated in the City of Bombay.

The arrival of a new group of refugees—women and children—for whom a new camp is being arranged in the Kolhapur State, thanks to the kindness of the Darbar, is now expected.

The Polish Government through Count Alfred Poninski, have expressed their deep gratitude for the warm welcome and generous help that has been given to refugee nationals in India.

MISCELLANY.

THE VULTURES OF THE EAST.

"The Japanese are addicted to plunder like the vultures to carcasses, with the difference that the Japanese do not confine themselves to eatables. They are very fond of gold and money. In villages in Shewbo district, I saw them entering house after house and searching for valuable things. They took away, or rather stole, watches, and plates, silver ware, and slippers. When they could not find gold or money in the houses, they approached haystacks and '*turned the earth*'. Peasants are in the habit of keeping their life savings there. This the Japs knew, and got them."

(*From the book* '*What Happened in Burma*', *by Thein Pe, published by* '*Kitabistan*')

THE RECOLLECTIONS OF THE REICH PROPAGANDA MINISTER.

"We cannot retrace our steps. The Government could not possibly see right to the end what the future would be. We have always shown the utmost frankness in our reports concerning the military situation. *The bluff which was practised on a large scale in the last war would be ridiculous now*......today it has become a question of life and death. History has shown that for the nations luck enters by one door......we must go on not minding the obstacles."

(*An article of Dr. Goebbels quoted by the Saigon Radio, April 17.*)

PAPER ECONOMY AT HOME AND OFFICE.

Paper economy is vital. Here are a few hints!

1. Write on both sides; use the smallest sheet possible and the narrowest margin.

2. Don't destroy used envelopes. You can use them again with an economy label.

3. Don't destroy paper written on one side only. You can use the other side at least for rough notes, scribbling paper or economy label.

4. Finally, let it be known to your family and your employees that your favour depends on their playing up to your new slogan, "Don't Waste Paper"

If you are a businessman:—

1. Avoid printing reports, circulars, etc., that are not really essential in war time. Many of them are never read in any case.

2. Avoid unnecessary acknowledgments, etc.; this also saves postage and congestion in Post Offices.

3. Don't allow perfectly good blotting paper to be thrown away only because it has a few inkstains on it.

4. How do you know your clerks are carrying out your orders—why not go and see for yourself?

PUDUKKOTTAI STATE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU.

PROGRAMME.

LECTURE CXLV. (*Batch 4.*)

8- 5-43	Municipal Office	... 6.00 p.m.	11- 5-43	Vadavalam	... 7.00 p.m.
9- 5-43	Nirpalani	... 7.00 ,,	,,	Sammattividuthi	... 7·30 ,,
,,	Avoor	... 7.30 ,,	12- 5-43	Nartamalai	... 7.00 ,,
10- 5-43	Karaiyur	... 7.00 ,,	,,	Uppiliakkudi	... 7.30 ,,
,,	Idaiyattur	... 7.30 ,,	14- 5-43	Konnaiyur	... 7.00 ,,
			,,	Melaveguppatti.	... 7.30 ,,

LECTURE CXLVI (*Batch 5*).

15- 5-43	Municipal Office	... 6.00 p.m.	19- 5-43	P. Puduppatti	... 7.00 p.m.
16- 5-43	Tiruvarangulam	... 7.00 ,,	,,	Vendampatti	... 7.30 ,,
,,	Vamban	... 7.30 ,,	20- 5-43	Vellanur	... 7.00 ,,
17- 5-43	Tirumayyam	... 7.00 ,,	,,	Sembattur	... 7.30 ,,
,,	Melur	... 7.30 ,,	21- 5-43	Puliyur	... 7.00 ,,
18- 5-43	Pallivasal	... 7.00 ,,	,,	Kannangudi	.. 7.30 ,,
,,	Pillamangalam.	... 7.30 ,,			

RECRUITING—ADVERTISEMENT—4 p. m.

8—5—43	Ponnamaravathi.	15—5—43	Tirumayyam.
9—5—43	Virachchilai.	16—5—43	Tittanviduthi.
10—5—43	Viralimalai.	17—5—43	Arimalam.
11—5—43	Vadakadu.	18—5—43	Perambur.
12—5—43	Kilanilai Puduppatti.	19—5—43	Karambakkudi.
13—5—43	Alangudi.	20—5—43	Kilanilai.
		21—5—43	Pudukkottai.

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